

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for processing print jobs in a network comprising:
a plurality of client stations ~~adapted~~ configured to submit print jobs, wherein each of the client stations includes means for generating and, with a submission of a print job, submitting a print account job which is generated as a second print job, the print account job containing account information of ~~a corresponding~~ the print job and linked to the ~~corresponding~~ print job by a linking identifier;

at least one printing device including a control unit and a printer, the control unit including storage means for storing the print jobs and the corresponding print account jobs submitted from the client stations to the printing device; and

means for validating the stored print jobs for printing, wherein said validating means receives the print account jobs and without user interaction validates a corresponding print job for printing in the case a valid print account job generated as the second print job has been received.

2. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the client station comprises a job submitter including said means for generating and submitting the print account jobs.

3. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 2, wherein a server station is ~~adapted~~ configured to intercept a submitted print job, said server station comprising means for generating and submitting a print account job containing account information of the intercepted

print job, wherein the print account job is linked to the ~~corresponding~~ intercepted print job by a linking identifier.

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 3, wherein the server station is ~~adapted~~ configured to communicate with a client station to obtain account information of the intercepted print job for insertion in the print account job.

5. (Previously Presented) The system according claim 1, wherein a printer server comprises said means for validating the stored print jobs for printing, and wherein said validating means validates a print job by generating a print validation command for a corresponding print job and submitting the print validation command to the printing device.

6. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the control unit of the printing device is ~~adapted~~ configured to receive the print jobs and the corresponding print account jobs, and wherein said validating means are part of the control unit of the printing device.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 6, wherein the storage means includes a holding queue, a printing queue and an account log file, and wherein the control unit moves the validated print job from the holding queue to the printing queue to be printed and moves the print account job to the account log file in the case the valid print account job has been received.

8. (Currently Amended) A printing device, comprising:

a control unit; and

a printer,

wherein the control unit is ~~adapted~~ configured to receive a print job, and a corresponding print account job generated as a second print job, the control unit including:

storage means for storing the print job and the corresponding print account job in a holding queue;

means for validating the stored print job for printing, said validating means being ~~adapted~~ configured to receive the corresponding print account job and without user interaction validate the print job for printing in case the corresponding print account job generated as the second print job is valid.

9. (Previously Presented) The printing device according to claim 8, wherein the storage means further includes a printing queue and an account log file, and wherein the control unit moves the validated print job from the holding queue to the printing queue to be printed and moves the corresponding print account job to the account log file in the case the corresponding print account job is valid.

10. (Currently Amended) A client station for use in a system for processing print jobs according to claim 1, wherein the client station ~~being adapted~~ is configured to submit print jobs, and wherein a job submitter is provided, including means for generating and submitting a print

account job containing account information of a print job, the print account job being linked to the corresponding print job by a linking identifier.

11. (Currently Amended) A server station for use in a system according to claim 1, wherein the server station is ~~adapted~~configured to intercept a submitted print job, the server station comprising means for generating and submitting a print account job containing account information of the intercepted print job, wherein the print account job is linked to the ~~corresponding~~intercepted print job by a linking identifier.

12. (Currently Amended) The server station according to claim 11, which is ~~adapted~~configured to communicate with a client station to obtain account information of the intercepted print job for insertion in the print account job.

13. (Original) A printer server for use in a system according to claim 1, including means for validating stored print jobs for printing, wherein the validating means validates a print job by generating a print validation command for a corresponding print job and submitting the print validation command to a printing device.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for a computer to operate as a client station in the system of claim 1 when said program runs on the computer.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for a computer to operate as a control unit of the printing device in the system of claim 1 when said program runs on the computer.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for directing a computer to operate as a server station in the system of claim 1 when said program runs on the computer.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for directing a computer to operate as a printer server in the system of claim 1 when said program runs on the computer.

18. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the linking identifier is a job name in a job name field of the second print job.

19. (Previously Presented) The printing device according to claim 8, wherein the corresponding print account job contains account information of the print job and is linked to the print jobs by a linking identifier, and the linking identifier is a job name in a job name field of the second print job.

20. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein the means for generating and submitting the print account job substantially simultaneously submits the print account job with a submission of the print job, and wherein the second print job is not intended to be printed.

21. (New) The printing device according to claim 8, wherein the corresponding print account job generated as the second print job is substantially simultaneously submitted with a submission of the print job, and the second print job is not intended to be printed.